

CLAIMS

1. A protective element, comprising a heat-generating member and a low-melting metal member on a substrate, in which the low-melting metal member is blown out by the heat generated by the heat-generating member, wherein the lateral cross section of at least part of the low-melting metal member is substantially divided into at least two independent cross sections between a pair of electrodes that pass current to the low-melting metal member.

2. The protective element according to Claim 1, wherein at least two strips of low-melting metal member are provided between the pair of electrodes that pass current to the low-melting metal member.

3. The protective element according to Claim 1, wherein one strip of low-melting metal member that has a slit in its center is provided between the pair of electrodes that pass current to the low-melting metal member.

4. The protective element according to Claim 1, wherein a thin-walled component is formed in the low-melting metal member between the pair of electrodes that

pass current to the low-melting metal member, so that the lateral cross section of at least part of said low-melting metal member is divided into at least two independent cross sections while the heat-generating member is  
5 generating heat.